Appointments in AIIMS

†1845. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that appointments are being made by senior officers in All India Institute of Medical Sciences arbitrarily;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether prescribed formalities were completed before making these appointments; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Harnessing of herbal medicines in North-East

1846. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that North-East is a treasure trove of bio-diversity, and if harnessed, can be a major player in the world global market for herbal medicines and can strengthen the economy of the region;

(b) if so, Government's assessment thereon; and

(c) the steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) It is correct that North-East region is very rich in bio-diversity which includes medicinal plants. Their sustainable use will augment supply of raw drugs and also improve economy of the region.

(b) and (c) Various action programmes have been introduced by the Ministry of Environment and Forests. These include: (i) Bio-sphere reserve

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

programme, (ii) Wet Land conservation programme, (iii) Scheme on Mangroves, (iv) In-situ and Ex-situ conservation of medicinal plants in the forest areas. These relate to conservation of natural resources including medicinal plants and bio-diversity.

The National Medicinal Plants Boards has sanctioned 29 projects in the North-East (Manipur, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Sikkim, Tripura & Agartala) out of 145 projects for the over all development of medicinal plants sector in the region. The total amount sanctioned for North-East region for these projects by the Board during 2001-2002 is Rs. 4.94/- crores for 1-3 years.

Modernization of Central Government Hospitals

1847. SHRI BASHISTHA NARAIN SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to modernize and upgrade the facilities in the Central Government Hospitals;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the expenditure likely to be incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (b) The upgradation/ modernization of Central Goverment Hospitals is a continuous process keeping in view the advancement in medical sciences.

(c) The likely plan expenditure to be incurred during the current financial year on the Central Government Hospitals in Delhi are as under:—

Safdarjung Hospital	Rs. 37.00 Crores
Dr. RML Hospital	Rs. 17.20 Crores
LHMC & Associated Hospitals	Rs.13.90 Crores
AIIMS	Rs. 105.00 Crores

Registration of ultrasound clinics

1848. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) when was the first ultrasound clinic registered in the country;